

Disposition of Remains Report

MEMORANDUM

TO: Department of State - CA/OCS
FROM: Embassy Malabo
SUBJECT: DEATH: Disposition of Remains
REF: 7 FAM 251

The following information is submitted in accordance with referenced requirements. Various doctors were surveyed in order to compile this data.

(1) Maximum period before burial:

When remains are maintained in a mortuary: The maximum period before burial when remains are preserved in a mortuary are unknown, but presumed to be a week. There are five mortuaries in the country of Equatorial Guinea. One is attached to the municipal hospital in Malabo, one is attached to the municipal hospital in Bata, two are located at the La Paz Hospitals in Bata and Malabo, and the fifth is located in the Spanish Embassy in Malabo. The Spanish Embassy will preserve remains for 24-48 hours in preparation for transport. The hospital mortuaries will preserve remains for a longer period of time, but are also subject to power fluctuations, and therefore longer term storage is not advised.

When remains are not maintained in a mortuary: The maximum period before burial when the remains are not maintained in a mortuary is 24 hours.

(2) Embalming:

There are no western standard embalming facilities in Equatorial Guinea. An embalmer may be flown in from Douala, Cameroon to prepare remains for transport. Local embalming is possible but they only inject embalming liquid without extracting the body fluids.

(3) Cremation:

Cremation is not permitted by national law and custom.

(4) Caskets and Containers:

- Caskets and containers are available locally on short notice. They are not prepared according to international regulations and do not meet the requirements for shipment out of the country.
- SOS and CAS (Cameroun Assistance Sanitaire), international medical providers, do serve Equatorial Guinea through their Paris and Douala offices respectively and can provide proper caskets for international transport.
- Major oil companies in EG generally purchase caskets to have in storage.

(5) Exportation of Remains:

To export human remains, the following documents are required by authorities:

- (a) Official Death Certificate (Certificado Literal de Inscripción de defunción) issued by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Ministry of Justice and Culture.
- (b) Official Death Certificate (Certificado de Defuncion) issued by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.
- (c) Permission to transport the remains (Translado de Cadaver)
- (d) Official Registration of Death (Inscripcion de Defuncion)
- (e) Certificate of the cause of Death signed by the Judge of the District Court (Diligencia)

6) Costs: Charges shown are based on the embassy's standard exchange rate: \$1.00 = XFA 500.

Local Burial: Accurate statistics are not available; anecdotal reports estimate the total for a standard local burial at between \$1,000 and \$2,000, depending on the services provided.

The fees below are provided by "Cameroun Assistance Sanitaire (CAS)" an international medical provider based in Douala, Republic of Cameroon that deals in the repatriation of remains abroad. All fees are approximate and actual costs may vary.

Transportation

From Malabo to Douala:	\$ 4,625.00
From Bata to Douala:	\$ 6,475.00
From Douala to Chicago:	\$ 6,741.00
From Douala to New York:	\$ 6,142.50
From Douala to Los Angeles:	\$ 7,339.50
Local ground transportation:	\$ 240.00

Other services

Embalming and treatment:	\$ 900.00
Assistance for clearance:	\$ 1,700.00
Coffin and accessories:	\$ 970.00

Internal Cost

CAS assistance fees for all services: \$ 1,700.00

Date May 1, 2014